

REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 5-9 have been canceled as being drawn to a non-elected invention. During the phone call of October 1, 2003, the election of the invention of group I, claims 1-4 was made, without traverse. Currently, claims 1-4 are pending.

The title of the invention has been amended to more accurately describe the invention as claimed.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation of "a first axis and a second axis, said second axis and said first axis intersecting at the center of said end surface," and to remove the limitation of "said first axis being co-linear with the longitudinal axis of said optical fiber."

Claim 2 has been amended to add the limitation of "wherein said first axis is co-linear with the longitudinal axis of said optical fiber" and to remove the limitation of "further comprising the step of rotating the optical fiber about a second axis, said second axis and said first axis intersecting at the center of said end surface."

The rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kiryuscheva et al., is respectfully traversed. Both independent claims 1 and 4 require that at least two axis of rotation intersect at the center of the fiber's end surface. Kiryuscheva et al. does not show or teach this feature. This is a very important feature of the invention as pointed out in the specification on page 5, lines 19-23. By using this alignment of the two (or three) axes, no translation of the fiber end surface takes place, as the rotational alignment is made. This speeds the alignment process, as translational alignment does not need to be redone during the rotational alignment. In prior art methods, any rotational alignment about a point not on the center of the end surface of the fiber, results in a translational movement of the fiber's end surface during rotational alignment. No matter what algorithm is used in aligning the fiber, this will result in longer alignment times.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Itoh et al., is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth above with respect to Kiryuscheva et al.

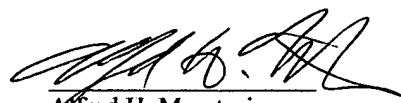
The rejection of Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pierson (US 5,812,258), is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth above with respect to Kiryuscheva et al. While Pierson has two axis of rotation that intersect at the junction of the optical components, the components could not be contacting during alignment and thus the intersection of the axis must be at least a small amount spaced from the end surface of the fiber, resulting in the afore-mentioned undesired translational movement of the fiber during rotational alignment.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Borner et al., is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth above with respect to Kiryuscheva et al.

The prior art of record fails to show the limitation in independent claims 1 and 4 wherein two (claim 1) or three (claim 4) axes of rotation intersect at the center of the end face of the fiber. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claims 1 and 4 and dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable over the prior art of record, and early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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